Ministry of Agriculture

2013/14 Annual Service Plan Report

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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

I am pleased to present the *Ministry of Agriculture 2012/13 Annual Service Plan Report* which was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared. The *Annual Service Plan Report* outlines achievements during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

We are proud of our agriculture sector and we are well on our way to achieving our *Agrifoods Strategy* target of $14 billion a year in revenues by 2017. As we report on our success over the past year, it is important to acknowledge the 61,000 hard-working British Columbians who are employed in our provincial agrifoods sector. It is an honour to represent them.

The number one way we can assist farmers, ranchers and those in the seafood and processing business to succeed – is to focus on developing a business environment that supports innovation and competitiveness.

We are taking action through continued investments in projects under the federal-provincial Growing Forward 2 program. Growing Forward 2 drives development, creates new products, new processes, new markets and new jobs. To help fill those new jobs, we've cut the ribbon on the new Centre for Excellence for Agriculture at the University of the Fraser Valley. This facility will provide students with the education and training they will need to meet workforce demands in B.C.'s growing agricultural economy.

The government introduced amendments to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* to help B.C.'s farmers grow their business and earn a better living, support food security by helping farmers continue to produce food on their land, and make the law clear that farmland preservation is ALC's first priority and decisions are made in the best interest of agriculture.

Over the past year, we have also seen the full and successful implementation of our new meat inspection program reinforcing B.C.'s reputation for safe and wholesome meat. As promised, the new program is protecting public health and animal welfare and at the same increasing economic opportunities for farmers and processors throughout the province.

We've seen the implementation of a carbon tax rebate on coloured fuels, and our greenhouse growers are able to apply for our ongoing carbon tax rebate program. We've committed to development of a long term sustainable tree-fruit replant program that will result in a stronger, more sustainable sector that earns more income for growers.

The B.C. Government's Buy Local Program has proved to be incredibly popular with the agrifoods sector. They asked for flexibility and the Buy Local Program delivered. The groups that received funding can now market their products and grow overall awareness of the benefits of supporting local producers. Projects that have received support include a smartphone app that connects British Columbians with local food options right on their doorsteps and a 'We Heart

Local' campaign that the BC Agriculture Council is leading to get the word out about the great food British Columbians can access in their local communities. We've committed to implementing an additional Buy Local program to ensure British Columbians continue to think local when they shop for their family's food.

The Ministry also took steps to prevent the spread of current and emerging disease by introducing a new *Animal Health Act* that will improve the response to potentially disastrous outbreaks. The legislation increases the number of reportable and notifiable diseases to about 100, many of which were not known when the act was last substantially revised in 1948. It also brings B.C. in harmony with other legislation across Canada, addressing the realities of increasing global travel and trade.

The *Ministry of Agriculture 2013/14 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the June 2013 revised *Ministry's 2013/14 - 2015/16 Service Plan.* I am accountable for those results as reported.

Honourable Norm Letnick
Minister of Agriculture
June 20, 2014

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Highlights of the Year

2013/14 marks a year of significant accomplishment by the Ministry of Agriculture. On March 27, 2014, the Ministry introduced to the Legislative Assembly two important pieces of legislation - Bill 24, the *Agriculture Land Commission Amendment Act*, and Bill 19, the *Animal Health Act*. Bill 24 proposed improvements to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) that will protect farmland in British Columbia and maintain the ALC's independence. This legislation was also intended to ensure the Agriculture Land Reserve is working for farmers and provide changes that would further encourage the stability of farm families and the farming industry in BC. The purpose of Bill 19 is to bring B.C.'s legislation into harmony with other legislation across Canada, and addresses the realities of increasing global travel and trade. The *Animal Health Act* enables government to respond as needed with modern animal disease management practices such as inspections, seizures, orders, penalties and enacting emergency powers. Six Canadian provinces and territories have modernized their animal health legislation since 2007.

B.C. Agrifoods: A Strategy for Growth promotes BC agrifoods at home and abroad. Of the 49 action items within that strategy – 44 are complete, 5 are still underway. BC's high-quality seafood was showcased to international buyers at the China Fisheries and Seafood Expo in November 2013, generating nearly $2 million in export sales. Working collaboratively, government leveraged Growing Forward 2 funding to lead nine trade missions, tradeshows and promotional activities that helped increase industry's ability to grow BC agrifoods exports to Asia.

The Ministry worked with the Ministry of International Trade and the BC Wine Institute to promote BC wines to buyers from China and Japan last September, supported a promotional event for BC wines (Winter Fancy Food Show) in Anaheim in January 2014, and helped promote BC wines at the one of the largest tradeshows in the Asia-Pacific region this past March 2014 – FOODEX Japan.

Over the last year, we've worked with BC's diverse agrifoods sector to deliver a Buy Local Program that reflects that diversity, and offers the industry the flexibility and freedom to promote their products as they see best. In 2012/13, the Buy Local Program supported 38 applications from producers all over the Province and many Buy Local projects are still underway. The Buy Local Program leveraged an additional $5.1 million investment by industry. This is an example of government and the agrifoods sector working together, to promote local foods, and generate economic benefits for BC's food producers and communities.

Government has supported the tree fruit industry by providing incentive funding for replant for many years. Under the current $2.4 million replant program, 171 tree fruit growers were approved to replant 528 acres. We are working toward the creation of a long-term and sustainable tree fruit program upon expiry of the current program. Through AgriFlex funding (60% federal / 40% provincial) the tree fruit industry completed a $5 million - 4 year program for initiatives that greatly assisted the tree fruit industry become more competitive. Projects included support for new technology infrastructure, strategic planning and pest management.

In late 2012, responsibility for meat inspection in provincially-licensed slaughter establishments was transferred to the Ministry. The completed implementation and new program change took effect starting January 1, 2014. The new system will reinforce BC's reputation for safe and wholesome meat by continuing the current safeguards and inspection system in provincially-licensed Class A and B abattoirs.

The five-year *Growing Forward 2* (GF2) Federal/Provincial/Territorial agreement, signed March 2013, brought $255 million of federal funding over five years. Matched 60:40 with provincial funding, GF2 brought: $186 million for Business Risk Management programs to help protect farmers against severe market volatility and disasters; and $69 million for strategic innovation, competitiveness and market development, and adaptability and industry capacity.

The Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program helps BC greenhouse operators keep their competitive edge. International competition is strong and BC operators compete with other jurisdictions throughout North America. Government undertook a review of the carbon tax and in Budget 2013 permanent carbon tax relief for the greenhouse sector was announced. In 2013, 172 greenhouse operators received grants.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Advanced Education have been working with the University of the Fraser Valley to establish the Centre of Excellence in Agriculture. The Province, through the Ministry of Advanced Education, has provided UFV $1 million in capital funding toward agriculture facilities that are being constructed at their new Canada Education Park Chilliwack Campus. The Ministry of Agriculture is currently exploring opportunities to use our Animal Health Centre and Plant Diagnostic lab facilities, equipment and staff in conjunction with UFV to further enhance the Centre of Excellence in Agriculture.

Organic production and processing is an important and growing part of British Columbia's agriculture industry. BC has a BC Certified Organic program and trademarked logo administered by Certified Organic Association of BC (COABC). Ministry staff continue to work with the provincial organic farming community to support the integrity of the existing BC organic brand. The Province has allocated over $300,000 to benefit the organic sector in 2013/14 and has up to four staff spending portions of their time on organics, as needed, for a combined total of about one FTE. All 17 Regional Agrologists across the province are also resources for the organic sector.

On October 31 2012, the federal Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River released its final report. The report includes 75 recommendations regarding the policies, practices and procedures of the Federal Government's Fisheries and Oceans Canada, nine of which directly or indirectly reference the Province of British Columbia. In response, the Province addressed all nine recommendations including confirmation it will not issue new tenures or amend tenure boundaries for the purposes of increased finfish aquaculture production in the Discovery Islands Area.

The Ministry worked extensively with the agriculture industry and the Ministry of Environment to ensure the industry's concerns and interests were considered in the development of the new *Water Sustainability Act* as well as the Agriculture Waste Control Regulation.

Balanced Budget 2013 committed to carbon tax relief for farmers. Coloured fuel (also called dyed or marked fuel) is generally gasoline or diesel that is mixed with a specific dye to distinguish it from clear fuel. Coloured fuel may only be used for authorized purposes. Effective January 1, 2014, farmers purchasing coloured fuel are exempt from paying both motor fuel and carbon tax.

Early Morning in Fraser Valley fields

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry) supports an innovative, adaptive, globally competitive and socially and environmentally responsible agrifoods sector valued by all British Columbians. The Ministry's support of healthy and safe agrifood and seafood production and post-production processing provides new and value-added products for domestic and international markets, contributing to B.C. jobs and the economy as well as to diversified rural communities.
The Ministry champions the agrifoods sector by:

- Supporting practices that promote adaptable, sustainable and competitive agrifoods production;
- Ensuring, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Federal Government, a regulatory system that promotes animal and plant health and food safety, which includes a provincially operated meat inspection program;
- Delivering programs to stabilize farm incomes when threatened by circumstances beyond farmers' control to ensure continued long-term production;
- Providing guidance and funding to the sector to increase market development;
- Supporting the agricultural industry's contribution to the green economy;
- Working with other ministries, federal partners and other governments, stakeholders and industry to ensure sustainable marine fisheries; and,
- Working to balance urban / agricultural interests.

The Ministry relies on interagency cooperation with organizations such as the Agricultural Land Commission and the BC Farm Industry Review Board. The Agricultural Land Commission is an administrative tribunal that oversees the Agricultural Land Reserve, a provincial land-use zone that recognizes agriculture as a priority use. The Agricultural Land Commission operates independently but is funded through the Ministry. Similarly, the BC Farm Industry Review Board is an administrative tribunal funded by the Ministry but which operates independently as the general supervisor of commodity boards and commissions and in hearing regulated marketing appeals, produce grading license appeals, appeals related to animal custody decisions of the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and farm practices complaints; and conducting farm practices studies.

The Ministry also collaborates with the Federal Government, other provincial ministries, local governments, First Nations, industry and non-governmental organizations in terms of funding and service delivery. The mandates of these bodies connect in a variety of key areas such as trade, climate change, innovation, resource management coordination, food safety and quality, support for local food, commitments to First Nations, animal and plant health, pest management, environmental issues and promotion of B.C. agrifoods products.

Less than 5 per cent of B.C.'s land is suitable for farming due to issues such as slope and soil type and coverage. This farm is nestled in the Fraser Valley.

Management and regulation of agriculture are shared jurisdictional interests of both the Federal and Provincial Governments. The Ministry and the industry receive considerable financial support from federal cost-shared programs. The $3 billion Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial agricultural policy framework agreement, *Growing Forward 2* is expected to bring about $255 million of Federal funding to the Province over the agreement's five year life, which started on April 1, 2013 and ends March 31, 2018. Business Risk Management programming is expected to account for about $186 million of the funding, depending on program demand. The remaining $69 million will support Strategic Initiative programming, targeting sector innovation, competitiveness, market development, adaptability and industry capacity.

Management and regulation of capture fisheries and aquaculture are shared jurisdictional interests of both the Federal and Provincial Governments. The Federal Government has primary responsibility for the conservation of wild fish stocks and appropriate management of wild fisheries and aquaculture, both finfish and shellfish. The Ministry interests have a twofold focus – ensuring sustainability of fisheries and the environment, and for maximizing the economic and social benefit of fisheries for the people of B.C. The Ministry works with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to ensure appropriate fisheries management practices which support a sustainable industry, and works closely with industry to encourage sector innovation, competitiveness and market access. The Ministry also cooperates with other Federal and Provincial agencies on food safety issues, and environmental protection.

The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 31 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry and a further 73 regulations relating to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available at: www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/agric.htm.

Strategic Context

The Ministry of Agriculture works to promote an innovative, adaptive and globally competitive agrifoods sector for the benefit of all British Columbians. The agrifoods sector- which includes agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and processing - is an important and successful contributor to the B.C. economy, and has responded vigorously to challenges and opportunities. While much has been accomplished, there is still more to do as new markets, products, competitors and issues impact the sector. The Ministry continues to work with the sector to support its competitiveness and viability.

Ministry staff, including the BC Farm Industry Review Board and the Agricultural Land Commission, number over 350. This includes veterinarians, microbiologists, virologists, Professional Agrologists and Engineers, planners, production and food science/processing industry specialists, business analysts and economists, as well as an array of other technical, business, administrative and financial experts. As a natural resource focused ministry, staff combine on-site field observations and client contact, research, knowledge and their professional training and judgment to identify opportunities and avoid or mitigate risks. Increased access to data and new equipment accelerates sharing of insights from fieldwork, research and analyses. The Containment Level 3 lab in Abbotsford, for example, speeds B.C.'s time-critical analyses of samples that would otherwise have to be sent out of province. Similarly, specialist staff develop spatial information identifying the types of agricultural production, part of the foundation for local government agricultural planning processes.

The following section provides a summary of some external factors and trends affecting the Ministry's activities.

Global economic outlook

British Columbia's real GDP increased by 2.0 per cent in 2013 (according to preliminary GDP by industry data from Statistics Canada), following growth of 1.5 per cent in 2012. Annual gains were observed in consumer spending, manufacturing shipments and exports, while modest declines occurred in employment and housing starts. Several risks to British Columbia's economy remain, including slowing domestic activity, weakness in the US economic recovery, the ongoing sovereign debt situation in Europe, slowing Asian demand and exchange rate volatility.

National and Provincial Factors

By 2030, Canada is expected to be one of only a handful of countries exporting more food than it imports. In 2013, B.C. agricultural and seafood exports went to over 140 countries and represented $2.7 billion in economic activity in the Province. B.C., as Canada's Pacific Gateway, has opportunities to export more agrifoods products and increase its economic return to the Province. B.C.'s advantages include the diversity of its agrifoods commodities.

Over the past several years, B.C.'s agrifoods sector has faced several changes affecting its competitiveness and profitability. A strong Canadian dollar and the high costs of energy and other inputs have placed downward pressure on the agrifoods sectors. The sector competes in international markets where Canada is now negotiating bilateral and multilateral agreements. International and national competitors, with similar or lower cost structures and larger economies of scale, will likely continue to squeeze profit margins for B.C.'s producers and processors. In the agrifoods sector, where over 80 per cent of the seafood is destined for the export market, there is a strong focus on

maintaining access and competitive advantage in global markets, necessitating quick responses to changing market opportunities.

In 2013, B.C.'s agricultural, fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors employed almost 61,600 people and generated approximately $11.6 billion in annual revenue. This is building to the 2017 target of $14 billion of annual revenue.

B.C. seafood is sought after in local, Canadian and international markets. Here, Premier Christy Clark

The 2013-2018 *Growing Forward 2* Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial agreement provides joint Canada/ B.C. funding for strategic initiatives and business risk management programming for B.C.'s agrifoods sector. To maximize the strategic benefits of this funding, the Ministry's operations are guided by the Minister of Agriculture's *Mandate Letter* and the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2013/14 – 2016/17*, in which the agrifoods sector is featured. Similarly, the Ministry's work is informed by the *2012 B.C. AGRIFOODS: a strategy for growth*, which includes an emphasis on employment and the economic importance of the sector, and is part of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*.

Business Risk Management programs are in place to help farmers manage risks from income declines resulting from causes such as drought, flooding, low prices, and increased input costs. The programs work together by providing protection for different types of losses, as well as cash flow options.

There are four cost-shared programs, described here: first, AgriInvest helps cover small income declines and allows for investments that help mitigate risks or improve market income; second, AgriStability provides short term benefits when there are large declines in the margin between revenue and operating expenses caused by circumstances such as significant market fluctuations in commodity prices or input costs; third, AgriInsurance offers protection against production losses for specific crops caused by weather events and other natural hazards such as hail, drought, flooding or disease; and fourth, AgriRecovery provides disaster assistance to help farmers cover extraordinary costs required to return their businesses to production.

In addition, the Advance Payments Program is a complementary federal-only program to help crop and livestock producers with cash flow and to provide flexibility for marketing of commodities.

The Ministry of Agriculture continues to make all efforts to reduce administrative and discretionary costs in order to achieve its savings targets without impacting direct services.

Expenditure management controls are in place to ensure that the ministry manages within its budget allocation and support the Province in achieving its fiscal targets.

Capitalizing on B.C.'s reputation for safety and quality

B.C. has an enviable reputation as a leader in the production and processing of a wide range of safe, high-quality agrifoods products.

Effective January 1, 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture, on behalf of B.C., assumed responsibility for delivery of a new, provincially-operated meat inspection program in the Province. The program, with meat product safety as its top priority, supports producers and processors as they meet local demand for B.C.-produced meat products.

Growing focus on buying locally produced products

B.C. enjoys a domestic market driven by the largest population of the four western provinces. Growing support in B.C. for locally produced food is leading to changes in eating habits and consumer choices. These changes have contributed to the number of farmers' markets across B.C. increasing from about 100 to almost 125 and total direct sales have increased by approximately 150 per cent between 2006 and 2012. Local seafood is available through many farmers' markets as well as through dockside sales in coastal communities. Buying locally produced products, either at farmers' markets or retail stores, reduces the distance food travels from farm to plate, transportation costs and greenhouse gas emissions. It also supports families involved in the production, harvesting and processing sectors and strengthens the future of the agrifoods sector provincially.

Increasing Innovation

Innovation leads to tangible benefits for producers, processors and the citizens of B.C. An innovative sector is one that continually develops and adopts new products and practices to remain competitive and sustainable. Innovation can take place anywhere along the innovation continuum, from basic exploratory research through to final product delivery. Focused investment in innovation can increase productivity, reduce costs, advance sustainability and lead to the development and commercialization of new products, processes and practices that will make the sector more competitive.

Since B.C. is a relatively small producer in the global trading arena, B.C.'s agrifoods commodity pricing is led by much larger producers. As a result, innovation - including new product development - is very important in establishing and servicing niche markets and responding to market opportunities for B.C.'s agrifoods.

Highly engineered, innovative facilities combine with skilled production staff resulting in quality mushroom production at this B.C. operation. Photo courtesy of All Seasons Mushrooms.

Urban / Agricultural Interactions

A large portion of B.C.'s most productive farmland is near urban development. This can lead to tensions over odour, noise and dust as well as competing demands for water. The Ministry works with producers and communities through the Strengthening Farming Program to address a range of conflicts. The Farm Industry Review Board also hears farm practices complaints and provides impartial resolution to disputes related to these issues. The Agricultural Land Commission assists farm families and contributes to the sector's overall sustainability by ensuring that land is retained in the Agricultural Land Reserve and that appropriate use is made of land in the reserve.

Resource Management Collaboration and Coordination

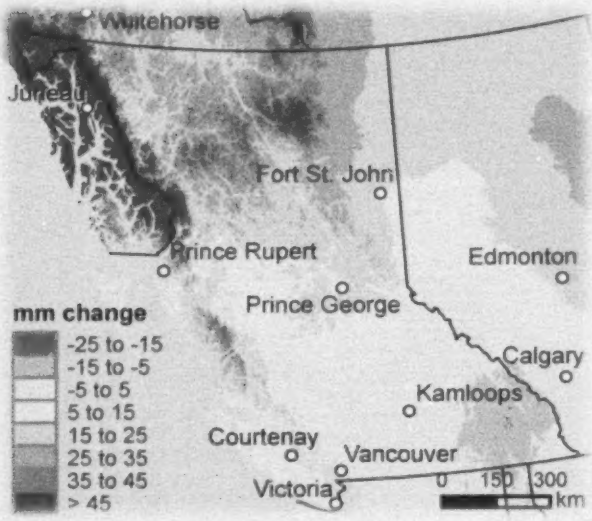
Government continues to work upon an improved platform for coordination and integration among the natural resource ministries: Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; Agriculture; Energy and Mines; Natural Gas Development; Environment; and Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations. Under the direction of the Natural Resource Board, these ministries are making bold changes to service delivery in the natural resource sector. This sectoral approach promotes streamlined authorization processes and enhanced access to public services across the Province. The resturcturing facilitates more consistent engagement and consultation with industry, stakeholders, partners and clients. It also enhances inclusion of Aboriginal, economic and environmental considerations into decision making. The ministries are working together to make these improvements and meet the commitments of the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2014/15- 2017/18* and the *BC Jobs Plan*.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation remains responsible for the overarching Crown-First Nations relationship as well as consultation policy, and supports all natural resource sector ministries on strategic consultation issues such as proposed policy or legislative changes. Through its New Relationship with First Nations, that Ministry along with government as a whole remains committed to constructive consultation with Aboriginal peoples on socio-economic issues and opportunities.

The Ministry continues to work with the Ministry of Environment on the review of the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation, has had input into the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation review and was actively involved in the consultation for the Packaging and Recycling Regulation over the past year. The Ministry also expects to continue to provide agricultural context to the drafting of regulations under the new Water Sustainability Act.

Aerial view of farming in the Fraser River Delta

Collaboration of the Natural Resource Sector ministries reinforces sustainable environmental management, and can promote the creation of family-supporting jobs. The Natural Resource Sector ministries cooperate in emergency management, such as managing livestock evacuation during floods or fires. Improving the efficiency of service delivery will also help address the budget realities and demographic challenges facing the Province. Similarly, significant interaction takes place between Natural Resource Sector ministries during natural gas exploration and removal near or on farmland.



B.C. summer precipitation change expected by the 2050s based on 1961-1990 baseline precipitation. Courtesy: Climate Impacts Consortium

The Ministry works closely with Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding aquaculture and commercial harvesting to ensure the sustainability and maximum economic value of fisheries.

The October 2012 final report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River (the "Cohen Commission") includes 75 recommendations regarding the policies, practices and procedures of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. On March 22, 2013, the B.C. Government announced that it accepts the intent of each of the nine Cohen Commission recommendations that directly reference the Province and the need to work cooperatively with federal and local governments. The B.C. Government addressed each of the nine recommendations, including confirmation it will not issue any new tenure agreements for net-pen salmon farms in the Discovery Islands until September 30, 2020.

The Ministry also works with B.C. agencies to maintain a healthy environment for fisheries, and address issues such as discharge from urban sewage and processing facilities.

Report on Performance

This section reflects performance related to the goals, objectives, performance measures and targets contained in the 2013/14 - 2014/15 Service Plan for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Performance Results Summary Table

Goal 1: Agricultural and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province. For greater detail see pages 18 to 20	**2013/14 Target**	**2013/14 Actual**
1.1 A sustainable agriculture and food sector Ratio of administrative costs to Production Insurance Premiums	20:80	EXCEEDED 14:86
1.2 Strategic growth and development of the agricultural and food sector Annual revenue growth in agrifoods industry		
• Farm Cash Receipts	2% Growth	NOT ACHIEVED 1% Growth
• Seafood	Maintain Value	EXCEEDED 15% Growth
• Food and Beverage Manufacturing	2% Growth	NOT ACHIEVED 2% Decline
Goal 2: An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector. For greater detail see pages 20 to 23	**2013/14 Target**	**2013/14 Actual**
2.1 Sustainable management of British Columbia's soil, water and air resources for agrifoods production and processing. Cumulative and annual number of Environmental Farm Plans Completed.		NOT ACHIEVED 209 new plans completed (plus 64 renewals and 1 group with 10 participants)
• Cumulative Number of Environmental Farm Plans	3950	
• Annual Number of Environmental Farm Plans	250	
2.2 Sustainable agrifoods management practices that assist successful adaptation to climate change. Cumulative and Annual reduction of carbon dioxide (CO_2) or carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) emissions arising from action support by Ministry programs.		EXCEEDED
• Cumulative reduction	105,000	107,000
• Annual reduction	14,000	16,000
Goal 3: Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agricultural and food sector practices. For greater detail see pages 23 to 27	**2013/14 Target**	**2013/14 Actual**
3.1 Promote a positive urban/agrifoods relationship to facilitate sustainable production for farms.		NOT ACHIEVED
• Cumulative Number of Agricultural Area Plans Completed	57	56 completed
• Annual Number of Agricultural Area Plans Complete	5	4
3.2 Animal, plant, and human health are safeguarded Per cent of routine (diagnostic) animal and plant samples completed within seven working days.	87%	EXCEEDED 87.5%

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

The Ministry's service plan is organized around three long-term goals:

- ***Goal 1***: Agricultural and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province;
- ***Goal 2***: An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector; and
- ***Goal 3***: Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agricultural and food sector practices.

The Ministry is committed to supporting government's key priorities for families, jobs and the economy, and open government. Part of this involves implementing the agrifoods strategy, which is part of the *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan.* The Ministry worked with industry to develop this strategy, launched in March 2012, to leverage opportunities and accelerate growth in the agrifoods sector. As part of the commitment made under the *BC Jobs Plan*, the Ministry commissioned a special report to identify opportunities for growth and innovation in the greenhouse industry and is following up on the resulting recommendations.

Lean B.C. pork with roasted vegetables

Goal 1: Agricultural and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province

Objective 1.1: A sustainable agricultural and food sector.

The Ministry supports sector profitability and self-reliance through programs and services that provide farmers with tools to adapt and sustain their businesses in the face of environmental and market risk.

Strategies

- Promote, deliver and improve national business risk management programs and services.
- Provide strategic business development leadership and build business management awareness, market intelligence, and capacity within the agricultural and food sector.
- Continue to implement and monitor the recommendations of the Ranching Task Force to improve the competitive environment of B.C.'s ranching sector.

Ranching is an important component of the B.C. agrifoods sector

Performance Measure 1: Ratio of administrative costs to Production Insurance premiums.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target
Ratio of administrative costs[1] to Production Insurance premiums	20:80	16:84	20:80	14:86	20:80	20:80

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture.
[1] Administrative costs include both fixed and variable costs.

Discussion of Results

This measure indicates efficiency of government's delivery of the Production Insurance program by comparing administrative cost ratios to the private sectors. Production Insurance in Canada is delivered by provincial administrations.

Production Insurance administrative costs vary widely between provinces. Provinces with diverse types of crops and relatively low farm cash receipts, such as B.C., tend to have relatively higher program costs than do provinces with homogeneous crop production and higher farm cash receipts. The value of the crops produced is also significant when considering administrative costs. Production Insurance, as with all insurance, must incur administrative costs to protect the program from abuse and adverse selection.

Over the last several years administrative costs have fallen to between 14% and 16% of total revenues. This has been as a result of some efficiency gains but also as a result of budget constraint measures which have reduced overall administration costs. Failure to maintain adequate administrative resources will result in higher claim rates over time which causes higher producer premiums and overall program costs therefore ratios significantly below 20:80 are as undesirable as ratios well above that ratio.

Objective 1.2: Strategic growth and development of the agricultural and food sector.

The Ministry promotes growth in the agricultural and food sector through programs that foster innovation, competitiveness and improved market access.

Strategies

- Expand domestic and international markets for B.C. agrifoods products.
- Undertake initiatives to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of B.C.'s seafood products in domestic and international markets.
- Assist producers and processors to capitalize on new market share opportunities.
- Support innovative product and process development, commercialization and technology adoption.
- Enable production and use of renewable energy and development of biorefineries.

Performance Measure 2: Annual revenue growth in agrifoods industry.

Performance Measure	*2012 Baseline [1]	2013 Target	2013 Actual	2014 Target	2015 Target	2016 Target
Annual revenue growth in agrifoods industry[3]	Farm Cash Receipts[2] $2.8 billion	2% Growth in farm cash receipts	1% Growth in farm cash receipts	4% Growth in farm cash receipts	4.5% Growth in farm cash receipts	5% Growth in farm cash receipts
	Seafood $0.7 billion	Maintain landed value	15% Growth in landed value	1% Growth in landed value	1% Growth in landed value	1% Growth in landed value
	Food and Beverage Manufacturing $8.2 billion	2% Growth in value of shipments for food and beverage	2% Decline in value of shipments for food and beverage	5% Growth in value of shipments for food and beverage	5.5 % Growth in value of shipments for food and beverage	6% Growth in value of shipments for food and beverage
TOTAL	$11.7 billion	$12 billion	$11.6 billion	TBD	TBD	TBD

**Data Source: Statistics Canada, Cansim Tables 002-001 and 003-001

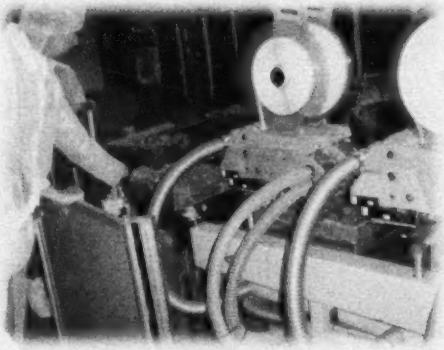
[1] For consistency, revenue growth is calculated using the actual published 2011 revenues rather than the three year average used in the 2012/13 – 2014/15 Service Plan.

[2] Farm cash receipts include crop and livestock receipts as well as direct payments to the sector.

[1] The agrifoods industry includes agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and processing/manufacturing.

Discussion of Results:

This measure reflects the growth in annual revenues by the agrifoods sector by monitoring growth in the value of farm cash receipts for crops and livestock, the landed value of seafood, and the estimated value of shipments from B.C. food and beverage processors. Revenue growth is an indicator of the contribution of B.C.'s agrifoods industries to the provincial economy. Targets are based on the average annual rate of change in revenues. Since these revenues are driven by market conditions, they are not wholly under the Ministry's control.



Fruit and vegetable packaging and processing are critical to ensuring high-quality B.C. product reaches consumers in top condition.

Values for 2012 have been revised and 2013 are estimates based on data available. Farm cash receipts (including program payments to producers) increased slightly in 2013. With 2012 experiencing higher than usual prices for grains and oilseeds due to the drought in the U.S. the 2013 values are reflecting a return to more normal pricing levels. Some livestock commodities showed good growth in 2013 over 2012 but declines primarily in cattle and dairy receipts (as the herds rebuild) affected the overall total. Seafood landed values increased in 2013 with notably higher values in tuna and cultured salmon. The total value of food and beverage processing shipment values for 2012 were not made available by Statistics Canada so growth rates for 2012 over 2013 are estimates only. A small decline in the value of food shipments resulted in a decline in the food and beverage manufacturing total despite indications that beverage processing shipments rose in 2013.

Goal 2: An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector.

Objective 2.1: Sustainable management of British Columbia's soil, water and air resources for agrifoods production and processing.

The Ministry supports the agrifoods sector to proactively address environmental risks and the impacts of climate change.

Strategies

- Provide programs and activities to identify and address critical agricultural environmental issues and enable adoption of best management practices supporting environmentally responsible production. For example, the Agriculture Water Demand Model will be expanded to additional areas of the province in 2013/14 to help ensure adequate water supply for food production.
- Support local governments, as well as the agricultural and food sectors to respond to and recover from environmental disasters.
- Work with commercial fishing industry to maintain and expand world standard eco-certification, such as that set by the Marine Stewardship Council.

Performance Measure 3: Cumulative and annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Base	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target
Cumulative number of Environmental Farm Plans[1]	3767[2]	4017	3976[3]	4201[4]	4575
Annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed	N/A	250	209	225	200

Data Source: Agricultural Research and Development Corporation reports and agreements.

1. Canada-British Columbia *Growing Forward* Agreement (2008-2013) and *Growing Forward 2*, (2013-2018).
2. The 2012/13 Base data are made up of the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans. This was originally based on an estimate of 3700, but data confirmed later the actual number is 3767. We have now updated the table to be more accurate
3. This number reflects information more up to date and includes individual as well as participants in group plans.
4. This target as well as 2015/16 target needed to be updated to reflect the change made to the base number

Discussion of Results:

This measure provides an indication of the response of farmers to environmental opportunities and risks on their farms. An Environmental Farm Plan is a voluntary, confidential assessment of opportunities to enhance environmental operations of B.C. farms and ranches. An assessment is conducted by the farm/ranch operator with the assistance of a trained planning advisor. The performance measure is the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans. These assessments are a pre-requisite to accessing funding to implement Beneficial Management Practices targeted at specific agri-environmental situations.

Ministry staff member collects a soil sample from a corn field in the Fraser Valley as part of the 2012 Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Study.

Demand for completion of Environmental Farm Plans was steady in the first year (2013/14) of the *Growing Forward 2* agreement. Although the target of 250 new plans was not achieved, the combined total of new, renewed and group based environmental farm plans totalled 283. When a new agreement is implemented during the main production season, communication to eligible participants is limited which caused new plans to be down slightly.

Demand for new Environmental Farm Plans has in the recent past also been linked to availability of incentive based funds (Beneficial Management Practices Program) which were fully committed in the first quarter of the fiscal year. Due to increased public interest in environmental issues, producers continue to recognize the value of completing Environmental Farm plans to assess risk on their operations and implementing beneficial management practices and as such interest in the program continues.

Objective 2.2: Sustainable agrifoods management practices that assist successful adaptation to climate change.

The Ministry supports the efforts of industry to develop innovative products, tools and processes to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

Strategies

- Promote opportunities for reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions and encourage improved environmental practice initiatives in the sector, which is striving to become more carbon-neutral.
- Support the province's climate change goals by identifying, researching and developing market opportunities for the agrifoods sector, including development and use of new products that will thrive in the new climatic regime.
- Support improvements in the efficiency of water and energy use by the agrifoods sector.
- Encourage industry response to changes in abundance and distribution of capture fisheries through new emerging capture and aquaculture fisheries.

Performance Measure 4: Cumulative and annual reduction of carbon dioxide (CO_2) or carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) emissions arising from actions supported by Ministry programs.

Performance Measure	2008/09 Baseline[2]	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target
Cumulative reduction in CO_2 or CO_2e emissions resulting from actions supported by Ministry programs[1]	19,000	34,000	91,000	105,000	107,000	122,000	137,000
Annual reduction in CO_2 or CO_2e emissions resulting from actions supported by Ministry programs	N/A	15,000	23,000	14,000	16,000	15,000	15,000

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture; Pacific Carbon Trust; Ministry of Environment

1. Includes the number of offset tonnes of carbon dioxide or CO_2 equivalent emissions purchased or retired through the Pacific Carbon Trust each year in emissions reduction projects coming from the agricultural sector, (for example, energy efficiencies in the greenhouse industry); carbon offsets are measured as one metric tonne of carbon dioxide or equivalent (CO2e).
2. Based on 2008 calendar year.
3. Based on purchases of 15,696 tonnes in 2013/14.
4. Target numbers are contingent on continued offset contracting between agriculture companies and the Climate Action Secretariat.

Discussion of Results:

This measure indicates the success of the Ministry and other provincial agencies in encouraging agriculture related businesses to implement innovations or practices which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Pacific Carbon Trust (PCT) was a provincial Crown Corporation with a mandate to deliver B.C. based greenhouse gas offsets to help clients meet their carbon reduction goals and to support growth of the carbon industry in B.C. In 2014, functions of PCT were reallocated to the Climate Action Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment.

The emissions reductions come primarily from four carbon offset projects: Katatheon Farms in Langley, Sun Select Farms in Delta, Quik's Farm in Chilliwack, and Randhawa Farms in Abbotsford. These projects are a mix of energy efficiency and fuel switching initiatives.

Beneficial Management Practices also contribute to CO2e reductions and are funded under *Growing Forward 2*. Caps, cost-shares and types of eligible projects are reviewed and adjusted annually.

Beekeepers are shown here with their bees. Healthy bees are critical to agricultural production.

Changes in ocean conditions are evident in the changes in abundance and distribution of wild fish populations. Fostering industry responsiveness to new and emerging capture fisheries and aquaculture opportunities enables B.C. to develop and diversify seafood products.

The Ministry will continue to engage with both Climate Action Secretariat and the agriculture industry to promote greenhouse gas emission reduction and carbon offsets. The Ministry will also continue to mainstream climate change adaptation into policies and programming, and to support the agriculture sector in climate change adaptation.

Goal 3: Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agricultural and food sector practices.

Objective 3.1: Promote a positive urban / agrifoods relationship to facilitate sustainable production for farms.

Agricultural activity depends on good relations with local government and community members. With only 1.5 per cent of British Columbians living on farms, it has become increasingly important for local governments to keep in touch with farm and ranch communities to help facilitate support for the agricultural sector.

The Ministry, for example, is conducting work on vegetative borders to intercept dust from barn exhaust fans to reduce impacts on neighbours. Preservation of agricultural land in British Columbia is overseen by the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry supports the Agricultural Land

Commission's work by promoting a positive urban / agricultural environment to ensure farmers can continue to farm in farming areas.

Strategies

- Promote a positive regulatory climate with local governments to support the agrifoods sector across B.C., in part by establishing standards to guide local government bylaw development in farming areas.
- Build a greater understanding of agriculture's contribution to communities through proactive, province-wide communication strategies.
- Support the Agricultural Land Commission's work to fulfill its mandate to preserve agricultural land for future generations of farm and ranch families.

Urban development alongside an agricultural area, Comox-Strathcona, Vancouver Island, B.C.

- Support local food initiatives to promote B.C. products domestically.
- Provide information to inform Provincial and Federal agency decisions regarding siting and operation of aquaculture facilities.

Performance Measure 5: Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Base	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target
Cumulative number of Agricultural Area Plans completed	52	57	56	61	65
Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed per year	3	5	4	4	4

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Discussion of Results:

This measure provides an indication of how capacity is being built within farm communities to influence issues that affect agriculture. An Agricultural Area Plan is a community-based initiative to develop practical solutions to agricultural issues and to identify opportunities to strengthen farming. Key stakeholders prepare the plan, which includes strategies for economic development, marketing, processing, agri-tourism and proposals for bylaw amendments to support agriculture. Relevant parts of an Agricultural Area Plan become a subset of the official community plan. In March 2014 there were 56 completed Agricultural Area Plans throughout B.C., with at least six more underway. The ultimate number of Agricultural Area Plans will depend on how jurisdictions choose to operate - e.g. some small communities may choose to work together on one plan, while other communities may

consider separate plans to be unnecessary, as agriculture is an integral part of their community's economy.

There were about 4 Agricultural Area Plans completed per year over the last 5 years with the exception of the 2011/12 fiscal when 12 plans were completed. The rate of plan completion has returned to the rate of about 4 per year. Four additional plans were completed in 2013/14 for a total of 56. There are at least six more plans underway. Speed of completing a plan depends on diverse variables such as funding, ease of providing the background information and the availability of stakeholders to provide input into the plan.

Objective 3.2: Animal, plant and human health are safeguarded.

The Ministry delivers services and initiatives to effectively manage food safety, plant, fish and livestock health risks contributing to positive public health and to maintaining consumer confidence domestically and internationally.

Strategies

Abbotsford Agriculture Centre, with Animal Health Centre (Containment Level 3) on left

- Continue to work with government and industry groups to identify and implement traceability and bio-security strategies that will reduce the risk of foreign animal disease outbreaks.
- Implement and deliver comprehensive provincial level programs for animal and plant health that manage the risks of animal disease, plant pests and invasive species and contribute to national programs.
- Protect the health of British Columbians by increasing awareness and adoption of food safety programs and practices.
- Develop and implement a provincially-operated, cost-effective meat inspection system to ensure ongoing food safety and industry support as well as livestock health and welfare.
- Maintain a provincially-operated, cost-effective seafood inspection system to ensure food safety, industry support, fish health and welfare in aquaculture production facilities and the value chain for fish handling and processing.
- Revise the Province's animal health policy and legislation to further public health and safety and secure the sector's market potential.
- Deliver plant health management programs and services to promote healthy and viable crops.
- Provide high quality animal and plant diagnostic services in a timely manner.
- Maintain a high level international quality assurance program for the Animal Health Centre veterinary diagnostic laboratory to insure accuracy and trust in delivered results.
- Advise growers on best management practices for pest control.
- Provide training for safe use of pesticides which would enable registration of low risk products.

Performance Measure 6: **Per cent of routine (diagnostic) animal and plant samples completed within seven working days.**

Performance Measure	2012/13 Forecast	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actuals	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target
Per cent of routine (diagnostic) animal and plant samples completed within seven working days[1]	85%	87%	87.5%	87%	87%

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

1. Samples tested in-house and not referred to another laboratory. Diagnostic tests require minimum times to complete, depending on the nature of the test.

The Plant Health Unit monitors pest outbreaks and conducts surveillance for non-native invasive pests.

The Plant Health Unit advises growers on the best management practices for pest control and provides training for safe use of pesticides. The Unit is also lead in acquiring access to the required pesticides required by industry including those that can be registered for organic production and alternative products for commercial production. The Plant Health Diagnostic Laboratory provides plant health diagnoses and helps to fulfill the Plant Health Program's mandate of providing programs and services to promote plant protection. The Plant Health Diagnostic Laboratory receives samples from growers of all commodities in B.C., pest management consultants, industry groups, home gardeners and the general public. In collaboration with the plant health team and other ministry staff, the plant lab increases the capability for early detection of new insect and disease threats.

Discussion of Results:

The Abbotsford Agriculture Centre houses the Animal Health Centre and the Plant Health Diagnostics Laboratory. The Animal Health Centre is a veterinary diagnostic laboratory accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories, one of only 3 such labs in Canada. The mandate of the Centre is to diagnose, monitor and assist in controlling and preventing animal disease in B.C. Although primarily concerned with food-producing animals, the Centre also provides diagnostic services for companion animals, wildlife, fish, zoo animals and marine mammals. Submissions are made to the laboratory by veterinarians, livestock producers, government agencies, humane societies, zoos, aquariums and members of the public. The Centre offers a wide range of veterinary laboratory tests on a fee for service basis to diagnose disease and other causes of poor production or mortality in animals. Samples from wildlife, marine mammal and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals investigations are also regularly submitted to the Centre for examination and diagnostic tests.

The Plant and Animal Diagnostic laboratories continue to strive for excellence and timeliness in their service. The Animal Health Centre handles about 5000 routine submissions a year with many more submitted for special projects often in the area of surveillance for disease. The Plant Health Laboratory logged about 950 cases in 2013. Optimal turnaround time (time from submission to the submitter being in receipt of the final report) is established (7 business days) and monitored for routine diagnostic cases to both labs. The goal is to insure that at least 85% of cases meet that turnaround time. It is not possible to have 100% of cases meet the target due to complexity of some cases and actual time involved with certain tests.

Plant health diagnoses, performed at the Abbotsford Agriculture Centre, support early detection of new insect and disease threats.

Report on Resources: Summary Table

	2013/14 Estimates [1]	Other Authorizations	Total Estimates	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Agriculture Science and Policy	24,441	0	24,441	24,268	(173)
Strategic Industry Partnerships	34,614	0	34,614	32,265	(2,349)
BC Farm Industry Review Board	896	0	896	1,089	193
Executive and Support Services	6,751	0	6,751	6,283	(468)
Sub Total	**66,702**	**0**	**66,702**	**63,905**	**(2,797)**
Agricultural Land Commission	2,905	0	2,905	2,813	(92)
Production Insurance Special Account (Net) [2]	9,700	(1,200)	8,500	9,118	618
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual [3]	0	0	0	673	673
Total	**79,307**	**(1,200)**	**78,107**	**76,509**	**(1,598)**

Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Executive and Support Services [4]	355	404	759	759	0
Total	**355**	**404**	**759**	**759**	**0**

Other Financing Transactions ($000)					
Agriculture Credit Act [5]	6	0	6	0	(6)
Total Receipts	6	0	6	0	(6)
Total Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**6**	**0**	**6**	**0**	**(6)**

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1 Estimates amounts correspond to the Estimates as presented to the Legislative Assembly in June 2013.

2 Other authorization amount represents the additional transfer payment from the Ministry Operations to PISA.

3 The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual is a reversal of accruals/recoveries in the previous year.

4 The Ministry was granted capital contingencies for up to $0.490M.

5 Receipts represent principal repayments on outstanding loans issued under the *Agriculture Credit Act* which was terminated on March 31, 1995. The *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendments Act*, 2003, provides the provisions for the loan repayments.

Annual Service Plan Report Appendices

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

Ministry of Agriculture:
P.O. Box 9120 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria B.C., V8W 9B4
Ph.: (250) 387-5121

Agriculture Science and Policy Division:
Ph.: (250) 356-1821, Fax (250) 356-7279

Strategic Industry Partnerships Division:
Ph.: (250) 356-1122, Fax (250) 356-7279

Ministry of Agriculture - Regional Offices:
Abbotsford
1767 Angus Campbell Road, V3G 2M3
Ph.: (604) 556-3001
Fax: (604) 556-3030
Toll free: 1-888-221-7141
Animal Health toll free: 1-800-661-9903

Courtenay
2500 Cliffe Avenue, V9N 5M6
Ph.: (250) 897-7540
Fax: (250) 334-1410

Cranbrook/Invermere
635 – 4th Street, Invermere, V0A 1K0
Ph.: (250) 342-4219
Fax: (250) 342-4262

Creston
1243 Northwest Boulevard, V0B 1G6
Ph.: (250) 402-6429
Fax: (250) 402-6497

Dawson Creek
4th Floor, 1201 - 103rd Avenue, V1G 4J2
Ph.: (250) 784-2601
Fax: (250) 784-2299
Toll free: 1-877-772-2200 Ministry of Agriculture
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Duncan
5785 Duncan Street, V9L 5G2
Ph.: (250) 746-1210
Fax: (250) 746-1292

Fort St. John
10043 - 100th Street, V1J 3Y5
Ph.: (250) 787-3240
Fax: (250) 787-3299
Toll free: 1-888-822-1345

Kamloops
2nd Floor, 441 Columbia Street, V2C 2T3
Ph.: (250) 828-4506
Fax: (250) 828-4154
Toll free: 1-888-823-3355

Kelowna
Unit 200 - 1690 Powick Road, V1X 7G5
Ph.: (250) 861-7211
Fax: (250) 861-7490
Toll free: 1-888-332-3352

Oliver
Suite 201 - 583 Fairview Road, V0H 1T0
Ph.: (250) 498-5250 or 5251
Fax: (250) 498-4952
Toll free: 1-888-812-8811

Prince George
2000 South Ospika Boulevard, V2N 4W5
Ph.: (250) 614-7400
Fax: (250) 614-7435
Toll free: 1-800-334-3011

Smithers
3333 Tatlow Road, V0J 2N0
Ph.: (250) 847-6379
Fax: (250) 847-6353
Toll free: 1-888-540-8611

Vernon
2501 – 14th Avenue, V1T 8Z1
Ph.: (250) 260-4610
Fax: (250) 260-4602
Toll free: 1-877-702-5585 Ministry of Agriculture
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Williams Lake
300 - 640 Borland Street, V2G 4T1
Ph.: (250) 398-4500
Fax: (250) 398-4688
Toll free: 1-800-474-6133

Agricultural Land Commission
133 - 4940 Canada Way, Burnaby B.C., V5G 4K6
Ph.: (604) 660-7000
Fax: (604) 660-7033
Email: ALCBurnaby@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca
Internet: www.alc.gov.bc.ca/

BC Farm Industry Review Board
780 Blanshard Street, Victoria B.C., V8W 9B5
Ph.: (250) 356-8945
Fax: (250) 356-5131
Email: firb@gov.bc.ca
Internet: www.firb.gov.bc.ca/
For more information about the Ministry of Agriculture, including full contact information, visit our website at: www.gov.bc.ca/agri/

Appendix B: Agriculture Land Commission

Purpose of the Commission

The Agricultural Land Commission is the provincial agency responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve, a provincial land use zone for the primary use of agriculture. As an administrative tribunal operating at arm's-length from government, the Agricultural Land Commission is accountable to the legislature through the Minister of Agriculture. Its operations are funded by a vote of the legislature.

In general, an administrative tribunal is a specialized government agency established under provincial legislation to implement legislative policy. Administrative tribunals engaged in an adjudicative process function in a manner more closely analogous to the courts. Procedure is less formal than before the courts and the rules of evidence do not apply, although decisions must be based only on sound evidence. The Agricultural Land Commission is expected to exercise its role in a non-partisan manner.

The work of the Agricultural Land Commission is carried out by provincial government appointed Commissioners. The appointed Commissioners are the board of directors of the Agricultural Land Commission which is supported by professional staff located in Burnaby.

The purposes of the Agricultural Land Commission as set out in the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* are:

- To preserve agricultural land;
- To encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest; and
- To encourage local governments, First Nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.

The core business functions of the Agricultural Land Commission are land use planning and policy, working with local governments and stakeholders on land use matters affecting the Agricultural Land Reserve, compliance and enforcement and land use applications.

Through its annual business plan and other strategic documents, the Agricultural Land Commission establishes the goals, objectives and strategies it believes are necessary to achieve its mandate. Further information about the work of the Agricultural Land Commission may be found at www.alc.gov.bc.ca

Agricultural Land Commission Business Plan Goals, Objectives and Strategies:

Goal 1: Preserve Agricultural Land and Encourage Farming

Objective 1.1: Preserve the provincial agricultural land base through comprehensive decision making

Strategies:

- Consideration of agricultural capability and suitability of lands under application.
- Consideration of the potential impacts on the land base and the agricultural use of the land base.

Objective 1.2: Expand current planning functions to include proactive planning related to community planning, major projects and emerging issues.

Strategies:

- Encourage local governments to engage in discussions with the Agricultural Land Commission and planning staff early in their land use planning processes.
- Encourage local government and other land use agencies to develop agriculturally sympathetic land use planning.
- Review Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries in select areas of the province with a view to confirming the accuracy and appropriateness of the boundary.
- Become involved in major projects at the early conceptual developmental phase.
- Research and assess emerging issues that impact the agricultural land base.

Objective 1.3: Ensure a high degree of compliance with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, regulation and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission.

Strategies

- Ensure compliance with the Act, regulations and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission based on current resources.
- Follow up on complaints of inappropriate use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands.

Objective 1.4: Propose ways to strengthen the Agricultural Land Commission's mandate and improve operations.

Strategies

- Work with the Minister responsible to bring forward proposed legislative and regulatory changes to strengthen the Agricultural Land Reserve and the mandate of the Agricultural Land Commission.

Appendix C: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

Purpose of the Board:

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board, the Board, is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's-length from government. As the regulatory tribunal responsible for the general supervision of B.C. regulated marketing boards and commissions, the Board provides oversight, policy direction and decisions to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacities, the Board provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost effective way. The Board consists of a part-time board of up to ten members and nine full time equivalent staff positions and is accountable to government for its administrative operations.

The Board's statutorily mandated responsibilities are established in the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act* and are supported by the *Administrative Tribunals Act*. They include:

- supervising B.C.'s regulated marketing boards and commissions;
- being a signatory to formal federal-provincial cooperation agreements in regulated marketing;
- hearing appeals of regulated marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations;
- hearing appeals of Minister of Agriculture decisions to refuse, suspend, revoke or not renew agricultural produce grading licenses;
- hearing appeals related to certain animal custody and cost decisions of the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
- hearing farm practices complaints from persons disturbed by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture or certain aquaculture operations; and
- conducting farm practices studies.

Through its annual strategic plan and other strategic documents, the Board establishes the goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures it believes are necessary to achieve its mandates. Further information about the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board may be found at http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca/.

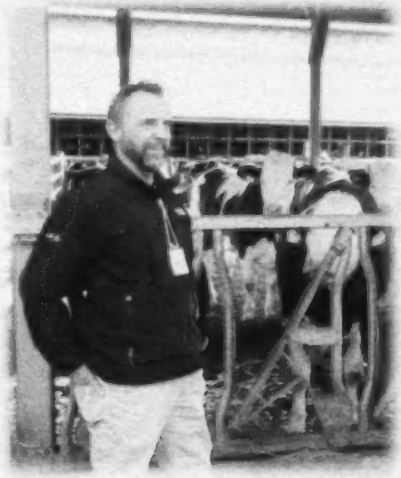
British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board Business Plan Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures:

Goal 1: A regulated marketing system with effective self-governance.

Objective 1.1: **The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions practice good governance in their external and internal operations.**

Strategies

- Ensuring that marketing boards and commission activities and decisions are administratively fair, in compliance with legislation/regulations and in accord with sound marketing policy.
- Requiring boards to give consideration to the government policy framework and the public interest.
- Providing supervisory intervention when necessary.
- Working to achieve priorities within budget while continuing to place importance on board and staff development and training.



Dairy production is a critical component of the B.C. agrifoods sector.

Performance Measures:

Performance Measure 1: BCFIRB and the boards and commissions it supervises exercise appropriate governance and fiscal procedures in exercising their mandates.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual
BCFIRB & boards/commissions exercise appropriate governance and fiscal procedures.	N/A	N/A	All boards/commissions meet expectations	Met

Discussion of Results:

BCFIRB's expectations for fiscal year 2013/14 were for boards and commissions to develop, review or update their basic governance policies and procedures and to have met financial reporting requirements. A review of Board and Commission annual reports and websites demonstrates that key governance tools are in place. A number of board and commission annual reports also reflect priority being placed on best governance practices.

For example, the BC Cranberry Commission has also put in place measures to ensure greater financial transparency as well as clarifying roles and responsibilities between itself and the BC Cranberry Research Society. As another example, to improve its financial accountability the BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission completely restructured its internal auditing processes following a thorough review.

Under each of the regulated marketing board and commission schemes and regulations, BCFIRB must approve the rules and procedures used to elect marketing board members and the processes used to appoint non-producer members (excluding Cabinet appointed members such as board and commission chairs). BCFIRB requires boards and commissions to review their election and appointment rules and procedures on a regular basis (2-3 years). Over the last year the BC Chicken Marketing Board, BC Vegetable Marketing Commission, BC Hog Marketing Commission, and the BC Turkey Marketing Board reviewed their election rules with their stakeholders and had any changes approved by BCFIRB. BCFIRB has also posted on its website an outline of the merit-based process used by the Board Resourcing and Development Office for recommending members for appointment by Cabinet (board and commission chairs and certain other member positions as set out in the individual schemes).

BCFIRB is generally satisfied with the progress boards and commissions are making towards demonstrating best practices in their governance and fiscal procedures. In March 2014, BCFIRB reiterated its continued expectation that boards and commissions exercise and demonstrate (through annual reporting, audited financial statements and other appropriate tools), transparent and accountable financial management. This extends to establishing and maintaining appropriate financial accountabilities with producer associations and other organizations that may receive funding from boards and commissions. To ensure greater transparency, BCFIRB has communicated an expectation that boards and commissions publish key governance documents [e.g. legislation, regulations and orders; strategic plans, annual reports, audited financial statements, governance manuals] in a readily and publicly accessible location on their websites.

Performance Measure 2: Boards and commissions demonstrate that their programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual
Boards/commissions demonstrate that their programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.	N/A	N/A	All boards/commissions meet expectations	Met

Discussion of Results:

The intent of the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* is to ensure orderly marketing. BCFIRB is largely satisfied that the boards and commissions are working towards the objectives set out in their respective schemes. The requirements of orderly marketing have become increasingly complex over time with a growing need for board and commission attention to environmental, animal care and other public interests.

The 2013 *Dairy, Egg & Poultry Industries* report prepared by PriceWaterhouseCoopers substantiates not only the positive financial return that supply managed sectors have provided to producers in delivering a stable supply of regulated product to consumers but also the substantial socio-economic benefits these sectors contributed to British Columbians.

It is also evident from their annual reports the growing importance boards and commissions are placing on public interest and social licence. They have, for example, demonstrated initiative to improve animal welfare. In its annual report, the Hog Marketing Commission highlighted that a New Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs was introduced in 2013. The BC Chicken Marketing Board made Chicken Farmers of Canada's Animal Care Program a condition of licence for producers in 2013. In 2014 the Chicken Board canceled a grower's license citing program compliance and animal care issues following monitoring by the Chicken Board and hatchery representatives as well as consultation with the BC Chicken Growers Association. They wrote a letter to the other regulated boards and BCFIRB explaining the situation, their decision and the process they used to reach their decision. The BC Egg Marketing Board accelerated implementation of Egg Farmers of Canada Enriched Housing Policy by a year. Effective December 31, 2013 no new cage system may be installed or unused cage system be commissioned, unless it is an enriched cage, or a free-run, free-range or aviary system.

To meet the needs of health conscious consumers, regulated sectors have continued to expand the range (e.g. Omega3 eggs) and communicate the nutritional benefits (e.g. BCPork) of their many products. They have also continued efforts to provide consumers with more choices (e.g. specialty and organic products). Supply managed industries improved access to farming through continued implementation and improvement of New Entrant Programs. The Chicken Marketing Board established Region Incentive Quota to support Vancouver Island chicken production and processing. Regulated sectors also sponsored a variety of community events and programs, including food banks, throughout B.C.

BCFIRB continues to encourage boards and commissions to clearly communicate their on-going contributions to public and consumer interests.

Performance Measure 3: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board demonstrates fiscal responsibility by operating within budget.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual
BCFIRB demonstrates fiscal responsibility by operating within budget.	N/A	N/A	Expenditures within 5% of budget	Expenditures = 109% of budget

Discussion of Results:

The operating budget for BC Farm Industry Review board for 2013/14 was $896,000. The Board received a separate $100,000 Ministry contribution in recognition of budget pressures including costs associated with new responsibilities for hearing certain appeals under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*.

Tribunals such as BCFIRB are recognized to be a cost-effective alternative to the courts. With four diverse mandates, BCFIRB operates in an intense, adversarial and unpredictable context where both

supervisory and dispute resolution services are externally driven. Demands come from federal, provincial, municipal and individual levels and are outside the Board's direct control, yet BCFIRB is required by legislation to act upon them. BCFIRB is experiencing an increasingly complex environment – both in agriculture and dispute resolution. Despite efforts to innovate, streamline, control costs and find efficiencies, and to promote self-help approaches to dispute resolution, it is likely that some incremental budget will be required in the future.

Goal 2: A principles-based, outcomes-oriented approach to regulation.

Objective 2.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions use a principles-based approach to regulating.

Strategies

- Working with boards and commissions to develop, adopt and employ a principles-based approach to regulation.
- Requiring all British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board, marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations to be made available to the public, except where privacy legislation and policies apply.
- Promoting policies that reflect B.C. interests at both the federal and provincial levels.

Performance Measures:

Performance Measure 4: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises demonstrate the application of the Strategic, Accountable, Fair, Effective, Transparent and Inclusive (SAFETI) principles in their programs, policies and decisions.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual
BCFIRB & the boards and commissions demonstrate the application of SAFETI principles	N/A	N/A	All boards/commissions meet expectations	Met

Discussion of Results:

A key priority for BCFIRB is development and implementation of a principles-based approach to outcomes-based regulation over time. In cooperation with the boards and commissions, BCFIRB developed definitions for and widely communicated the SAFETI principles in the context of an accountability framework. BCFIRB also worked to promote a principles-based, outcomes-oriented approach at the federal level through leadership at the National Association of Agri-food Supervisory Agencies (NAASA). In this and other venues, BCFIRB worked to encourage cooperation, provincial allocation frameworks that reflect SAFETI principles within the national framework, and pricing based on transparent cost-of-production information. The Board has adopted a practice of communicating SAFETI principles, as appropriate, in its communications, correspondence and decisions. Substantial

improvements were also made to the BCFIRB website to increase transparency, promote self-help and communicate information more effectively.

BCFIRB is pleased to see that implementation of principles-based regulation by boards and commissions is underway as evidenced by a stated commitment to SAFETI in a number of board and commission annual reports and websites, use of SAFETI principles in certain of their decisions (e.g. Milk Marketing Board position on creation of a national harmonized milk pool; Turkey Marketing Board decision to remove processor assurance of supply) and even, in the case of the Chicken Marketing Board, institutionalizing SAFETI by including a section for decision rationale based on outcome based [SAFETI] principles in their decision record.

In reporting to BCFIRB, boards and commissions identified governance activities undertaken; processes initiated that demonstrate effective stakeholder engagement; commodity and system management initiatives completed; and measures taken to enhance social license and leadership. BCFIRB is satisfied that boards and commissions now have solid grounding in the principles-based regulation approach. Going forward, BCFIRB will require SAFETI principles to be communicated to stakeholders, implemented throughout board and commission practices and routinely demonstrated in deliberations and decisions as appropriate. The approach employed by the Milk Marketing Board in undertaking the *BC Dairy Quota Policy & Governance Review* serves as a model illustration of the application of SAFETI principles.

Performance Measure 5: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board orders, decisions, determinations, practices and procedures and other information are published. Marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations are published promptly after being made in order to preserve rights of appeal under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act.*

Performance Measure	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual
BCFIRB & the boards and commissions publish orders, decisions & determinations promptly	N/A	N/A	All boards/commissions meet expectations	Met

Discussion of Results:

As required by its published Practices and Procedures, BCFIRB routinely posted its complaints and appeals decisions within seven business days following the decision. BCFIRB also posted supervisory review decisions promptly. Progress was made by boards and commissions which generally identified the right of appeal and timeline in their communication of decisions. A rationale was often provided where decisions were of a non-routine nature (e.g. a policy amendment). Most boards and commissions posted significant decisions to their websites. At least one board identified both the date of the decision and when it was posted on their website, providing greater transparency concerning the elapsed time between when a decision was made and when it was made public.

BCFIRB regularly reminded boards and commissions of their obligation to promptly communicate orders, decisions and determinations to all those who may be affected by a decision along with notice of their right of appeal. BCFIRB will continue to monitor progress.

Performance Measure 6: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises work to maintain and where possible grow the market for BC produced product.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual
BCFIRB & the boards and commissions work to maintain/grow the market	N/A	N/A	No loss in production or in base allocation for supply managed sectors	Exceeded

Discussion of Results:

The estimated 2012 farm gate value for the regulated marketing sector was $1.50 billion. Regulated marketing sectors contribute more than one half of the farm gate value of all agricultural output in BC, with commensurate economic activity in the related processing and marketing sectors. The value of supply managed production sectors increased by 4.2% over the previous year. While comparable statistics are not yet available for 2013, preliminary values for certain regulated industries are up over 2012. For example, the farm-gate value of eggs reached a record $151.3 million in 2013, while hog values are expected to be higher with improving hog prices.

Boards and commissions, independently and with the support of BCFIRB, undertook numerous initiatives to maintain and grow the market for BC produced products:

- Negotiations for a fair share of national allocations for BC; growth in allocations for expanding markets; and specific allocations for production of specialty and organic product niches;
- Monitoring of market conditions and proposing, securing and distributing allocations while ensuring allocated quota is produced;
- Issuance of quota for emerging growth areas [e.g. Eggs for Processing];
- A wide range of marketing/promotional activities to build demand, communicate product attributes to consumers and position BC products competitively [e.g. Hog Marketing Commission's continued shift towards specialty/niche production and marketing];
- Marketing [e.g. *Economic Impact Study of North American Cranberry Industry*; *Opportunities Assessment of BC's Vegetable Marketing Sector*] and scientific research activities [e.g. disease research; Cranberry Research Station] to support marketing, innovation and production;
- New product development initiatives [e.g. Vitamin D enhanced "Sunshine Egg");
- Participation in national programs [e.g. Milk Marketing Board made use of and helped to improve the Domestic Dairy Product Innovation Program – now Dairy Innovation Program] to meet growing, and changing consumer demand;
- Value-chain initiatives [e.g. the Turkey Marketing Board advocated for recognition of a further processing requirement to meet BC demand and better tracking of whole turkey to help inform marketing efforts];

- Development and communication of strategies, positions and responses to marketing issues [e.g. cross-border shopping], and opportunities [e.g. potential export opportunities] emerging from a changing international trade landscape [e.g. Canada Europe Trade Agreement, Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement].

Overall, BCFIRB is encouraged by the wide range of initiatives boards and commissions have undertaken in strategically positioning themselves for an increasingly competitive business environment.

Goal 3: Effective, fair and independent resolution of inquiries and disputes.

Objective 3.1: Ensure issues and disputes arising within the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board's jurisdiction are resolved in a fair and timely manner.

Strategies

- Using farm practices studies to help prevent and resolve farm practices disputes.
- Using supervisory processes to help prevent and resolve regulated marketing disputes.
- Using timely, fair and accessible processes to help resolve complaints (under the Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act), and appeals (under the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the Agricultural Produce Grading Act).

Performance Measures:

Performance Measure 7: Most appeals and complaints to BCFIRB are handled within target process timelines.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual
Most appeals and complaints to BCFIRB are handled within target process timelines	N/A	N/A	80%	100%

Discussion of Results:

The table following summarizes BCFIRB's activities with respect to appeals and complaints.

	Farm Practices Complaints	Regulated Marketing Appeals	Appeals under *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*
Carried forward from previous fiscal year	17	8	0
New appeals filed	12	9	8
Active appeals	**29**	**17**	**8**
Resolved by settlement	3	4	1
Heard and decided	16	9	7
Appeals resolved in fiscal year	**19**	**13**	**8**
Appeals carried forward	10	4	0

BCFIRB introduced an improved tracking system for complaints and appeals management. Since time can be a critical factor in animal welfare cases, BCFIRB has developed a timely and procedurally fair process for hearing these appeals. Each of the 8 appeals in 2013/14 was resolved within the 29 business days established in BCFIRB's Practice Directive. For regulated marketing appeals filed, heard and decided in 2013, 100% were within the target set out in BCFIRB's Practice Directive. As the *Administrative Tribunals Act* has very limited application to farm practices complaints there is currently no practice directive for those. Building on what it learned from implementing the appeals process under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and its review of the regulated marketing appeals process, in 2014/15 BCFIRB will review its practices and procedures for complaints, including establishment of appropriate complaint process timeline targets.

BCFIRB completed two formal supervisory reviews in 2013/14:

- Follow-up Central Vancouver Island Agencies Designation Decision - December 23, 2013
- Central Vancouver Island Agency Designation Review Decision - January 7, 2013

BCFIRB's scope of authority under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* was challenged in a recent Judicial Review. The Court upheld BCFIRB and provided greater clarity to the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and to the public concerning BCFIRB's role. Additionally, BCFIRB decisions were upheld in each of three Judicial Reviews concerning farm practices complaints.

The results and recommendations of BCFIRB's propane cannons studies in 1999, 2009 and 2011 continue to provide guidance to BCFIRB as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, local governments and the BC Blueberry Council in helping to resolve propane cannon noise disputes. In many cases now, issues are resolved before a complaint is formally filed with BCFIRB.

BCFIRB will continue to promote the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution and explore additional ways (e.g. regulatory changes to enable use of single member panels and to allow the awarding of costs in farm practices complaints) to accelerate dispute resolution processes without compromising fair and impartial resolution of complaints and appeals.

Performance Measure 8: Demonstrated increased use of Alternative Dispute Resolution by marketing boards and commissions and the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual
Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) is used whenever appropriate.	N/A	N/A	Whenever Appropriate	Met

Discussion of Results:

The board is satisfied that it employed Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) whenever appropriate in resolving inquiries, complaints and disputes in 2013/14. As a matter of practice, BCFIRB made complainants and/or appellants aware of alternative dispute settlement options at the beginning of every dispute process and promoted their use throughout each process as appropriate. BCFIRB, for example through facilitation/mediation, also assisted parties to reach settlement. BCFIRB has updated its website to inform, guide and promote use of ADR to persons involved in disputes.

BCFIRB continues to encourage and support boards and commissions in using ADR. To date the boards have had some demonstrated success with this approach to dispute resolution. For example, the BC Turkey Marketing Board successfully used ADR in relation to an appeal to conclude the Turkey Board processor Assurance of Supply program. As a result of ADR efforts by both parties, the appeal was withdrawn. As boards continue to implement SAFETI and principles-based regulation BCFIRB is cautiously optimistic the downward trend in appeals under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* will continue. Good governance combined with effective dispute prevention and resolution processes results in more effective and strategic decision making. However, given the increasingly complex nature of agriculture and associated responsibilities for the boards and commissions, appeals will remain an option for affected stakeholders in ensuring accountability in the regulated marketing system.